

CLEAN WATER COUNCIL

Meeting Highlights

December 12, 2000

Location

N.J. Environmental Infrastructure Trust, 3131 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville

Attendees

See attached attendance list.

Highlights Summary

New Member

Ray Zabihach, Planning Director for the Morris County Planning Board was recently appointed to the Council. Ray's areas of concern are Watersheds and Storm Water Management.

December 5th CWC Public Hearing

- The CWC Public Hearing was held on December 5th in Freehold
- There was a concern about holding the hearing at night, but it was the most successful hearing the Council has had.
- A total of 44 people attended the hearing. Out of the 44 in attendance, 22 provided testimony to the Council.
- People actually answered the questions that we presented in the brochure.
- A lot of written comments were also provided to the Council. Group formed to review comments - Pat Matarazzo, Todd Kratzer, Bill Ring, Ray Zabihach and Stefany Gesser.
- A presentation by the Farming Community on inverse condemnation was very impressive. They had concerns about how the Water Quality and Watershed Management regulations will have an effect on their land designations.
- We heard from Mt. Holly on the beneficial reuse of wastewater. They stated that there were changes needed in the regulations concerning effluent reuse. Ground water recharge is also an issue. Cyclet systems are being used in commercial facilities (not sure that they want to take that risk in private homes).
- Eric Evenson's presentation on the Water Budget was also impressive. Eric's presentation can be viewed on the USGS web site.
- About 30 percent of the individuals making presentations seem to have had some difficulty dealing with the Department. The Council may want to make a recommendation to the Department on this issue.

- Dan Van Abs had some valid points on the Department's processing of data. The Department has good data but has trouble managing it.
- Water Supply Master Plan - Why are there problems if we have the plan? The Plan has not been fully implemented. A drought plays a part in water supply. Supply is related to quality. If we have enough supply, quality will be maintained.
- Proposal by Fish & Game to open Split Rock Reservoir for recreational uses - What will happen to quality with the use of gasoline powered motors? Is this beneficial use of drinking water? What is the cost for New Jersey to open to recreational fishing? Is CWC going to weigh in on local issues that are being handled by other areas in the Department? Cari Wild is already handling this issue for the Department. The CWC should only be dealing with statewide issues. The Council can look statewide at the impact of recreational uses of our drinking supply.
- Headwater question presented - This issue has already been brought to the Department and language has been included in the Water Quality and Watershed Management Rule.
- Comment from a Plumber - New homes are being designed for maximum water use not minimal.

Suggested Recommendations to Bring to the Department

- Effluent reuse
- Competing use of water - Maintain quality and quantity holistically
- Economics issue
 - Cost is a concern - why not reuse? Cheaper to install a new well and use ground water.
- Provide recommendations to the Department based on the answers to the questions presented in the brochure.

Hearing Success Factors

- Central location - Only minus is that attendance was localized, not representing all of New Jersey.
- Time of hearing - Evening was preferred
- Topic - Watersheds are getting very active and people are interested in participating.
- Presenting questions on the brochure - People came prepared with answers to the questions.
- 5,000 flyers mailed by DEP

Copies of the hearing transcript will be provided to the Council. Transcript will be ready within the next two weeks.

Surface Water Quality Standards

- The Surface Water Quality Standards have been proposed. Pat Matarazzo suggested that everyone read them.

- The standards will appear in the New Jersey Register on Monday, December 18th.
- There will be two hearings held in January.
- There is a 90 day comment period - Comments due by March 19th.
- Some of the main issues in the standards are:
 - Antidegradation provision, which is tied to the Water Quality and Watershed Management Rule
 - No change in designation of antidegradation categories for certain areas of the state
 - How is phosphorus being handled? DEP would be able to handle on a watershed basis

EPA's Nutrient Criteria

- EPA is working on a policy to encourage states to develop numbers.
- EPA looking at what was the natural nutrient loadings to our streams when trying to develop these numbers
- States are broken into "Eco-Regions"
- States have expressed their concerns to EPA
- CWC can provide comments to the Department of EPA's Nutrient Criteria

Water Quality and Watershed Management Rule

- A lot of controversy with the rule.
- In October, the Governor asked DEP to convene another stakeholder process.
 - December 15th is the final stakeholder meeting.
 - The meeting will be from 1:30 to 5:30 in DEP's Public Hearing Room
 - DEP will present the results of the various stakeholder meetings in order to gain input for improving the rule.
 - The input gathered will be presented to the Governor's Office and the Legislature to discuss ways to improve the rule.
- The Department received over 3,000 individual comments on the rule. Each comment will need an individual response.
- Resolution passed the Senate Regulatory Oversight Committee. It has not yet been voted on in the Senate. It may be up for a vote on December 18th.
- The Water Quality and Watershed Management Rule and the Surface Water Quality Standards are linked.

CWC Action Items for 2001

- Prepare recommendations to the Department on the public hearing by March 2001.

- Revise and update CWC Membership List
 - Address members with expired terms
 - Pam Goodwin reappointed
 - John Gaston appointed for Business and Industry
 - Ray Zabihach appointed
 - Ella Filippone's membership as liaison from Water Supply Advisory Council
- Provide comments to the Department on the Surface Water Quality Standards, the Water Quality and Watershed Management Rules and the Stormwater Rules.
- Pursue Air/Water/Water Supply relationship
 - Meet twice a year to go over cross issues
 - Pat Matarazzo will attend meetings and bring issues to the CWC
- Begin to discuss agenda, topic and location for October 2001 hearing.
- CWC Seminar
 - Continue to do as part of WEA Conference in Atlantic City or hold seminar separately.
- CWC Web Site

The Clean Water Council meetings will begin at 9:30 a.m. and there will not be a meeting in August.

Agenda for January 9th Meeting

- CWC Annual Seminar
- CWC Year in Review

**STATEWIDE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT
ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE
Meeting Highlights
December 12, 2000**

Location

N.J. Environmental Infrastructure Trust, 3131 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville

Attendees

See attached attendance list.

Highlights Summary

December 5th CWC Public Hearing

The summary as presented above was also discussed as part of the Subcommittee meeting.

- A suggestion was made to the Council to invite a speaker to the next hearing.

Pine Barrens

- At the CWC Hearing, Mark Demitroff raised the issue of Pinelands ponds drying up.
- The Pinelands Commission does not view this as a problem.
- Assemblyman Gibson is sponsoring a bill which will provide funding for a regional study of the Pinelands but not for exportation of water.
- The bill will provide for funding to Cape May for water resource projects in Cape May.
- The bill was also provide for a wastewater reuse study in Cape May.

Reuse Activities Outside of New Jersey

- Project in Manhattan - First residential reuse community in Battery Park
- Linden/Roselle East Coast Power Project - Large scale industrial reuse project
- Route 1 Corridor in Foxboro - Aquifer is gone - looking at reuse

Accomplishments for 2000

- Some of Council/Subcommittee's recommendations appeared in regulations.
- TMDL Task Force in place
- Drought Task Force in place
- New members appointed

There were no Subcommittee reports presented.